

JAN 20 1964

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The CIA and Its 'Black' and 'White' Work

In publicizing its estimates of Soviet economic growth, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has drawn attention to its largest task. This is the dull, methodical, encyclopedic job of scanning the world's publications for facts and figures.

The recent analysis of Soviet economic problems was based principally on figures that appeared in the technical journals and newspapers of the Soviet Union and nations trading with the Soviet Union.

At CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., a few miles west of Washington, D.C., thousands of clerks and analysts read these journals daily, noting conflicts in figures, noting economic policy statements, noting everything from freight shipments to road building.

This is the overt, or *white* part of CIA's operations. It is scholarship, not spy-story adventure. Most lower-echelon *white* personnel are free to admit they work for the supersecret agency, although they are not allowed to discuss their work with anyone except supervisors.

Keeping Up With the World

The *white* side of CIA includes experts on economics, military affairs, government, and politics. These people keep track of developments all over the world, not just in Iron Curtain countries. Most of CIA's personnel work in *white* operations, although outsiders think of the agency mainly as a cloak-and-dagger outfit.

That CIA actually engages in spying has been hinted at by Allen W. Dulles, the agency's former director, but the agency prefers to say nothing about what it does and does not do. When U-2 spy plane pilot Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union, President Eisenhower announced that spying was necessary for defense. The President's admission violated the first rule of espionage—to say nothing—and Mr. Dulles was furious.

CIA's covert, or *black*, operations, are top secret. The agency's spies do not even know each other, lest one get caught and identify his fellow spies to his captors. CIA spies have generally been effective, although they have miscalculated on some occasions. Allen Dulles has mused that one problem of the espionage business is that spying successes go unheralded, but failures are announced to the world.

What the Flights Accomplished

The U-2 incident provides an excellent example. Before the flights were detected, U-2 pilots gathered a wealth of information, from aerial photographs of missile-base development in southern

California. Mr. Dulles, once an American spy himself, retired as agency director in 1959. He was succeeded by John McCone, a California business executive. But Dulles' knowledge is still available to the agency, though unofficially.

The CIA is an agency of the National Security Council, which is headed by the President. Its budget, estimated at \$500,000,000 to \$1 billion annually, is secret, known only to the National Security Council and members of CIA subcommittees of the House and Senate Armed Services committees. CIA appropriations are scattered through the Federal budget under disguise. A State Department order for 400 telephone switchboards may be a CIA salary appropriation for clerks, or a CIA appropriation for radio-monitoring apparatus.

Some congressmen have frequently but unsuccessfully sought to establish a watchdog committee for CIA. Because its agents have taken part in overthrowing foreign governments, these lawmakers contend that the CIA is an unmonitored agent of American foreign policy.

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Recommended Reading

Tasks of the Central Intelligence Agency are described in Allen W. Dulles' *The Craft of Intelligence* (Harper & Row, New York, 1963), and in Harry Howe Ransom's *Central Intelligence and National Security* (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1959).

For background on Latin American problems, see the Pan American Union report, *Applications of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance* (Pan American Union, Washington, 1957).

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